

Appl. No. 09/895,493
Reply to Office Action of 7 February 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figure 3 with the Figure 3 of the Replacement Sheet at the end of this paper.

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action of 7 February 2007, including the cited prior art. In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4, corrected Fig. 3, and makes the following remarks.

Phone Conference of 26 February 2006

Applicant thanks Examiner for the phone conference of 26 February 2006. Examiner and Applicant discussed the Amendments and Applicant Remarks of 16 November 2006 and the Pozzuoli reference. Specifically, Examiner and Applicant discussed the first and second communication channels providing bi-directional protection and control information transmission between the first and second relays. Though an agreement was not reached, Applicant believes that the phone conference helped to advance the prosecution of this application.

Objection to Figure 3

Examiner objected to Figure 3 because the Figure lacked the indication of the “Control Signal for Faulty Channel”. Applicant has amended Figure 3 with this indication. Applicant believes that this amendment adds no new matter as the originally-filed Figure 3 included the indication of the Control Signal for Faulty Channel. Applicant believes that this amendment overcomes Examiner’s objection to the drawings.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 under 34 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Pozzuoli. Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 3.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Examiner has rejected claim 2 as being unpatentable over Pozzuoli, and claim 4 as being unpatentable over Pozzuoli in view of Feller (US 2001/0015107). Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 4.

Allowability

Examiner has indicated that claims 6-15 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the arguments set forth in this response, this application is now in condition for allowance, and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. However, should Examiner be of the opinion that further amendments or response is required, Applicant encourages Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below. Further, although no additional fees are believed to be due at this time, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd., Deposit Account No. 50-1039 with reference to attorney docket number (1444-0015.01).

Respectfully submitted,

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